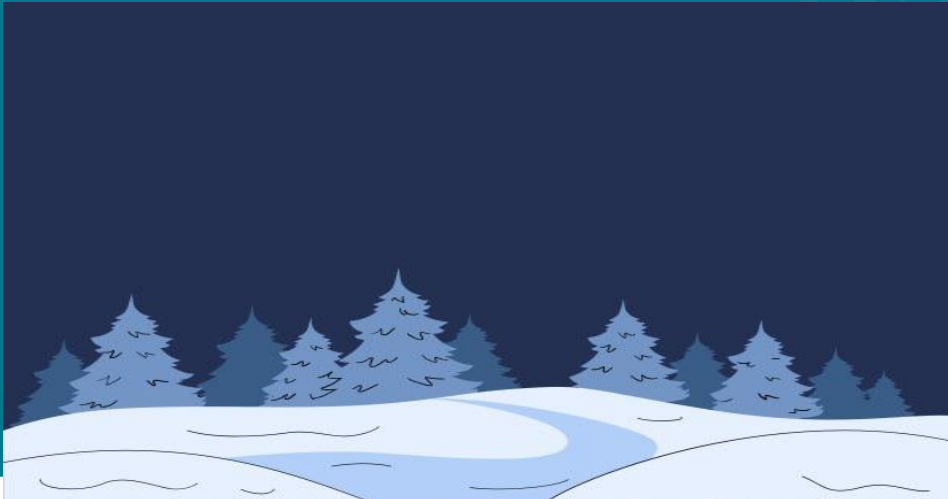


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Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all at Nuleaf!

Welcome

Here is a summary of topics discussed at the recent Nuleaf Steering Group meeting, forthcoming meeting dates and other items we hope will be of interest.

Dates for your diary

The next meeting of the **Radioactive Waste Planning Group (RWPG)** will be held, via Teams, between **10am and 12.30pm on Wednesday the 28th January 2025**. In addition to the usual papers, we will receive an update from Nuclear Restoration Services (NRS) on planning activities; and from NDA on their landfill capacity study and ongoing work on Permitted Development Rights (PDR) and Planning Policy Guidance (PPG).

The next **Steering Group** will be held online on **Wednesday the 11th March 2025 between 10am and 3pm**. More information on the agenda will be confirmed nearer the time.

If you are interested in joining either of these meeting, please contact Chloe Atkinson Chloe.Atkinson@nuleaf.org.uk.

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Steering Group report

Nuleaf's last **Steering Group** meeting of the year took place on the 2nd December.

Much of the discussion focussed on the recently announced departures of key members of the engagement team at the NDA; and other departures from the teams at Nuclear Restoration Services (NRS) and Nuclear Waste Services (NWS).

All departures are under the Mutually Agreed Voluntary Exist Scheme (Mave) which is being run across the NDA at present. It is anticipated that staff across the Group, in all functions, will depart through the scheme. John McNamara, the NDA's Director of Communities and Stakeholder Engagement, joined the meeting to explain the reasons behind the departures and the next steps.

John is himself departing in March 2026, but is working to put in place plans for the future before he leaves. He restated the NDA's commitment to engagement and to continued work with Nuleaf and local authorities.

In discussion members recognised the reasons why individual staff had chose to apply for MAVE, but questioned why the NDA had allowed key staff to depart over such a short period, with no clear plan as yet regarding the future approach to engagement.

Members also noted the opportunities that this situation presented in terms of enhancing engagement at a national, regional and local level, but stressed that this would only be achieved by the NDA through working closely with Nuleaf and other stakeholders over the coming months. It was agreed to write to the NDA and to the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) to express member concerns.

The meeting also hear from Koulis Efkarpidis of the NDA, who gave an update on the development of **Strategy 5**; and discussed the recent announcement that Wylfa on Anglesey has been selected as the site of the first Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) to be developed in the UK.

Finally, Executive Director Philip Matthews gave a presentation on his recent visit to Borsele in the Netherlands as part of the GMF Europe Executive. Borsele is the potential location of a new nuclear reactor, and in response the local authority has convened a representative group of 100 local people to set out their expectations of the reactor development and other energy infrastructure that is planned.

The work of the **Borsele Conditions Group** was felt to be innovative and something that could be replicated in the UK.

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Aerial view of Wylfa, site of the UK's first Small Modular Reactors (SMRs)

Wylfa gets the green light

On the 13th November it was confirmed that **Wylfa** on Anglesey will be the site of the UK's first Small Modular Reactors (SMRs), backed by Great British Energy – Nuclear (GBE-N). The reactors are being constructed by Rolls Royce SMR. The initial plan is for three SMRs at the location though this has the potential to grow to eight. Work is due to start in 2026, with 3,000 jobs and billions of pounds of investment being made during the construction phase. It is predicted that electricity generation will begin in the mid-2030s.

On a visit to North Wales, Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer said Britain was once a world leader in nuclear power but *'years of neglect and inertia has meant places like Anglesey have been let down and left behind. Today, that changes.'* Llinos Medi, the MP for Ynys Môn/Anglesey, said it was a *'game-changer'* for the area *'but only if local people see real and lasting benefits'*.

The decision means that the alternative site at **Oldbury-on-Severn** has lost out. The UK Government stated that Oldbury *'has great potential for new nuclear, including the potential to support the privately-led projects being developed by the nuclear industry'*.

The Government has announced plans for another Gigawatt (GW) reactor project similar to Hinkley Point C and Sizewell C, with the potential to power up to six million homes. GBE-N has been asked to identify suitable sites, and a spokesperson for the Department for Energy Security & Net Zero (DESNZ) confirmed that Oldbury could be among those considered.

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NDA News

The NDA has published its **Socio-economic report 2024-25**. This provides information on the £60 million that the Authority has directly invested in local economies over the last 5 years, working in partnership with others to support a range of projects across the estate.

Staying with socio-economics, the NDA has announced that:

- It is making a £1million investment to develop a masterplan for **Pioneer Park**, a clean energy development adjacent to Sellafield. The plan will be led by BEC, the local development company, with the aim of setting out how clean energy technologies and AI and data centre infrastructure could come together to drive long-term economic growth and jobs, taking into account Sellafield's existing requirements.
- It has reached an agreement with CX Power as the strategic developer to support the delivery of the green energy hub masterplan at **Chapelcross**. The focus of the CX Power development is 135 acres of available land within the unlicensed landholding of the estate, adjacent to the former nuclear power site and wider nuclear licensed area. Their plans include potential for a 1GW data centre campus with a zero-carbon target in its energy operation. The scheme looks to harness the 3GW of renewable energy supplies within fifty miles of the site and the 1.2GW of planned and consented wind and solar developments in the region.

Also released at the end of November is the **NDA mission progress report 2024-25**. This outlines the progress that is being made in the decommissioning of the UK's early nuclear sites.

Hinkley B decommissioning consent

The ONR has granted formal consent to EDF Energy's (EDF) project to decommission **Hinkley Point B** nuclear power station. This decision comes after a public consultation (which Nuleaf responded to) and a detailed assessment by ONR specialist inspectors of EDF's environmental statement and Habitats Regulations Assessment.

The completion of defueling at the site was also announced at the start of December. Hinkley B now joins Hunterston B in being fully defueled.

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